

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
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AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6689

E.O.. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ENRG, EC

SUBJECT: CAPTAIN LUIS HONORIO SALAZAR LAUDETA, NEW MINISTER OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

1. SALAZAR, PRESENTLY NAVAL ATTACHE AT THE ECUADOREAN EMBASSY
IN BOGOTA, WAS NAMED ON OCTOBER 4 TO REPLACE CAPTAIN GUSTAVO
JARRIN AMPUDIA AS MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY.
ALTHOUGH NO MEMBER OF THE MISSION NOW HERE KNOWS SALAZAR PER-
SONALLY, EMBASSY/NAVATT FILES DO CONTAIN SOME INFORMATION ABOUT
HIM.

2. A CAREER NAVAL OFFICER, HE WAS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN IN 1970
AND IS RUMORED TO BE AMONG THOSE TO BE PROMOTED TO ADMIRAL LATER
THIS YEAR. HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA
HAS BEEN CLOSE SINCE HE CAME TO POWER IN FEBRUARY, 1972:
SALZAR WAS NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NAVY IN FEBRUARY,
1972, MADE PERSONAL AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT IN MAY, 1972; AND IN AUGUST, 1972 HE WAS
DESIGNATED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.
IN THE LATTER CAPACITY HE WAS A MEMBER OF A GROUP OF ECUADOREAN
OFFICERS WHO AT THEIR REQUEST WENT TO THE US IN OCTOBER, 1972.
EMBASSY AT THAT TIME (QUITO 3456, AUGUST 30, 1972) CHARACTERIZED
SALAZAR AS FOLLOWS:

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QUOTE: HE IS A QUIET, UNASSUMING OFFICER WHO IS ALSO VERY OB-SERVANT, INTELLIGENT, AND CAPABLE. HE IS LIKED AND TRUSTED BY THE PRESIDENT. HE IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE OUTSTANDING OFFICER IN THE GROUP. HE IS POLITICALLY MODERATE, PRO US AND QUITE ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH. HE IS WORTH SPECIAL ATTENTION. END QUOTE.

HE WAS NAMED NAVAL ATTACHE IN BOGOTA IN MAY 1973. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT OF HIS NOMINATION AS MINISTER STATED THAT HE HAD STUDIED PETROLEUM PROBLEMS DURING A TRIP OR COURSE IN BRAZIL.

3. NAVATT WILL SUBMIT FULLER BIOGRAPHIC REPORT LATER IN GREATER DETAIL.
BREWSTER

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